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10/064,064	06/06/2002	Shoichi Sawa	086142-0521	3161

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EXAMINER

SMITH, KIMBERLY S

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3644

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**BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS
AND INTERFERENCES**

Application Number: 10/064,064
Filing Date: June 06, 2002
Appellant(s): SAWA ET AL.

Howard Shipley
Joann K. Corey
For Appellant

SUPPLEMENTAL EXAMINER'S ANSWER

This is in response to the Remand to the Examiner dated July 27, 2005.

Art Unit: 3644

In Response to the Remand to the Examiner dated July 27, 2005, the Examiner apologizes for any vagueness in the Examiner's Answer and provides the following comments in hopes of further clarification.

The figure to the right is an augmented illustration of Figure 4 of the White, US 2,421,228

reference, depicting the "guide groove" and the "key

groove". With respect to the mating component as illustrated

in Figure 6 of White, it is clearly seen that there are three

protrusions (11) extending from the periphery of the mating

section. These protrusions are defined as not only the

projections as claimed as that in Figure 4 but, at least one of

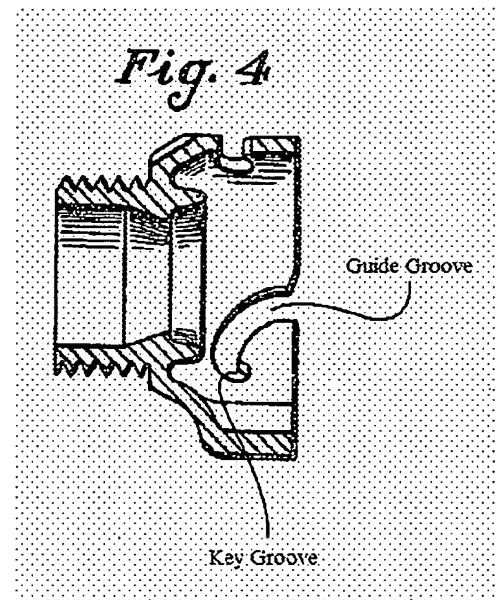
the protrusions is defined as the key which is positioned in

the key groove as shown at the right. It is these protrusions

which, when positioned in the key groove, prevent relative

rotation of the coupling member (reference the mating components as illustrated in Figure 1) as

required by the Appellant's claim limitation.



As per the general definition of a "groove", it is noted that Merriam-Webster's Collegiate

Dictionary Tenth Edition defines a *groove* to be a long narrow channel (in which *channel* is

defined by the same reference as a means of communication or a way, course, direction of

action). As can be seen in the Figure above, the guide groove is a long narrow channel (as it has

a greater length than width thereby meeting the structural limitation of "narrow") and is further a

means of communication or a way, course or direction of action for with the protrusion to

Art Unit: 3644

transverse. As such, it is maintained that the structure defined by Figure 4 of White is to be considered a “groove”.

It is again stated that the Examiner realizes the structural differences between the Appellant's invention and cited references. This is evident by the finding of allowable subject matter in claims 6-9. While the claims are read in light of the Appellant's specification, it is the claim limitations themselves that define the metes and bounds of the invention being sought for protection. As such, the claims must be interpreted as broadly as their terms reasonably allow. With the clarification of the Examiner's reading of the prior art stated herein, it is respectfully submitted that the combination of references with proper motivation for combining, define the structural limitations as those claims currently on Appeal.

Reply Brief

In response to the Reply Brief filed January 27, 2005:

The Appellant's argue that axial movement of the lugs 11 only occurs after the lugs 11 are inside and mated with the bayonet slots 6. In view of the Figure submitted above, it is clearly seen that there is an axial component to the movement of the protrusion within the guide groove prior to insertion into the key groove. It is noted that within the structure of claims 1 and 10, it is the groove to which the Appellant has defined the area in which the projection rests thereby preventing the receiving member and the bottle from moving apart. In the combination of references as applied, it is only within the key groove that this limitation is met and thereby,

Art Unit: 3644

there is an axial component to the movement of the protrusions within the guide groove prior to mating with the key groove.

With respect to the statement regarding claims 1, 10 and 20 directed to the projections of White not extending only partially around the periphery of the connection. As can be seen in Figure 4 of White, there are three grooves (6) into which projections (11) are inserted. These grooves are clearly shown to lie within the same plane. As such, it is inherent that the protrusions (11) to which they are to mate must also lie in the same plane. Given this fact, the protrusions (11) are considered to lie on the periphery of the connector at a distance measured by their diameter, which is less than the entire periphery. If the projection were extended around the entire periphery of the connection (which is the opposite of the claimed limitation of extending only partially around the periphery of the connection), the fitting would not be able to be coupled within the groove (6). Therefore, it is maintained that the protrusions extend only partially around the periphery of the connection.

With respect to the Arguments of Claims 2, 11 and 17, reference discussion above with respect to the issues raised on Remand.

With respect to the Argument of Claim 4, the Examiner agrees with the Appellant and withdraws the rejection regarding Claim 4 as well as dependent Claim 5.

For the above reasons, it is believed that the rejections should be sustained.

Art Unit: 3644

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly S Smith
Examiner
Art Unit 3644

kss

August 17, 2005

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